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President Carter likes for people to be his friends. In fact, even though friends like Bert Lance and Peter Bourne have not always been the president's greatest assets, he likes to have lots and lots of friends. The weekly National Journal has compiled a sampling of his public pronouncements. Among them:

"My good friend, one of the closest friends I have in the world": Lance.

"Among my closest friends in the world":

Bourne and his wife, Mary King, deputy director of ACTION.

"My closest possible associate in the future": CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

"Someone who in such a short time can become one's closest friend": House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.

"A very close personal friend": Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and also West Virginia Gov. John D. Rockefeller IV.

"A close personal friend": Vice President Mondale, former Fed Chairman Arthur F. Burns, and VA head Max Cleland.

"A very close friend": EPA's Barbara Blum, SBA's A. Vernon Weaver Jr., AT&T head John D. deButts, and Ray Starnes, a petty officer from Carter's Navy days.
"A close friend": Sens. Claiborne Pell

(D-R.I.) and William D. Hathaway (D-Maine).

"A personal friend": Henry Howell of Virginia, the shah and shabanou of Iran, Indian-Prime Minister Morarji Desai, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Kenneth Curtis, and Hathaway again.